



Title	Efficacy and Safety of Angiotensin Receptor Blockers Alone and in Combination with Diuretics in Patients with Hypertension, Heart Failure, or Diabetic Nephropathy
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Aim

To compare the different drugs in the angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) class with regard to efficacy and safety in patients with hypertension, heart failure, and diabetic nephropathy.

Conclusions and results

We did not identify any systematic reviews that directly compared drugs within the ARB class or that compared the combination drugs. This applied to all clinical endpoints and all patient populations examined in this report. Few studies with hard endpoints (death, cardiovascular events, end-stage renal failure) compared the different ARBs with other active drug treatments, or with placebo. Most comparisons with other active treatments have not reported significant differences with regard to efficacy. Hence, these studies could not be used as a basis to undertake indirect comparisons between the different drugs within the ARB class. ARBs appeared to be well tolerated. Adverse events related to ARBs varied between studies, and the data were insufficient to determine whether differences existed between the different ARBs concerning specific adverse drug reactions.

In conclusion, it has not been documented that one or several drugs within the ARB class are more efficacious or safer than others in patients with hypertension, heart failure, or diabetic nephropathy.

Methods

The report presents an overview of systematic reviews. We examined the effect of ARBs on clinical endpoints such as death, cardiovascular events (myocardial infarction, stroke), and end-stage renal disease. We systematically searched the Cochrane Library, the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination databases, MEDLINE (Ovid), and EMBASE (Ovid).